

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317)232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6064

BILL NUMBER: HB 1013

DATE PREPARED: Oct 22, 1998

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Stepparent adoptions.

FISCAL ANALYST: Susan Preble

PHONE NUMBER: 232-9867

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that a court may determine that a home study is not required before an adoption is granted if: (1) the person who seeks to adopt a child is the child's stepparent and the child is at least eight years of age; or (2) the person who seeks to adopt the child has been married for at least five years to the child's parent. It also reduces court costs from \$100 to \$55 in stepparent adoption proceedings.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: There could be some cost savings to the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) due to a reduction in home studies that will no longer be required for step-parent adoptions. According to the Indiana Judicial Report there were 3,121 adoption filings in calendar year 1997. It is estimated that 46.6% of the filings were step-parent adoptions.

Explanation of State Revenues: Passage of this bill would result in loss of revenue to the state General Fund, depending upon the percentage of step-parent adoptions filed in a given year. In calendar year 1997, there were 3,121 adoption filings with an estimated 46.6% being step-parent filings. The estimated loss of revenue is \$65,469 of which the state share of the loss is \$45,828 (70%) and the local share of the loss is \$19,641 (30%).

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues: See State Revenues.

State Agencies Affected: Family and Social Services Administration.

Local Agencies Affected: Clerks of the Circuit Court, Courts.

Information Sources: 1997 Indiana Judicial Report, Vol. II.